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ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	ARA-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00
	CG-00	CIAE-00	SJK-01	COME-00	CTME-00	C-01	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	HA-09	IMMC-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	INSE-00	JUSE-00	L-03	ADS-00	M-01
	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	USSF-00	ASDS-01	/051W
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P 052010Z OCT 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4403
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
USIA WASHDC 8831

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, PTER, PINS, PHUM, PGOV, VE
SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH FBL LEADER

REF: (A) CARACAS 10239 (B) CARACAS 10323
(C) FBIS CHIVA CHIVA 042121Z OCT 92

1. SUMMARY. A CARACAS NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW
WITH THE ALLEGED LEADER OF THE BOLIVARIAN LIBERATION
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FORCES ("FUERZAS BOLIVARIANAS DE LIBERACION" OR FBL),
COMANDANTE ZACARIAS, ON OCT. 3, 1992. IN ADDITION TO
TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SHOOTING OF ANTONIO RIOS,
ZACARIAS THREATENED THAT IF THE VENEZUELAN COURTS DID NOT
MOVE AGAINST OTHERS CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION WITHIN 30
DAYS, THE FBL WOULD STRIKE AGAIN. END SUMMARY.

2. ON OCTOBER 3, ONE OF THE LEADING CARACAS NEWSPAPERS,
"EL NACIONAL," PUBLISHED A FULL PAGE INTERVIEW WITH
COMANDANTE ZACARIAS, THE ALLEGED LEADER OF THE FBL.
ZACARIAS ASSERTED THAT THE FBL SHOT LABOR LEADER ANTONIO

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RIOS (REF A AND PREVIOUS), AFTER PLANNING THE OPERATION FOR TWO YEARS, TO SEND A "CLEAR WARNING TO THE THIEVES OF PUBLIC MONEY AND TO THE JUDGES THAT GUARANTEE THEIR IMPUNITY." INDIRECTLY, ZACARIAS ALSO IMPLIED THAT THE FBL WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GRENADE EXPLOSION AT THE RESIDENCE OF FORMER PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI (REF B).

3. COMANDANTE ZACARIAS AFFIRMED THAT THE FBL HAS A LIST OF "CORRUPTOS" WHICH IT PLANNED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST AS IT HAD IN THE RIOS CASE. INCLUDED ON THE FBL HIT LIST, ACCORDING TO ZACARIAS, ARE JAIME LUSINCHI, HIS WIFE BLANCA IBANEZ, JOSE ANGEL CILIBERTO (LUSINCHI'S FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER WHO IS LINKED TO IBANEZ IN A 1989 SCANDAL INVOLVING THE SALE OF JEEPS PURCHASED AT GOV EXPENSE), AND CECILIA MATOS (THE MISTRESS OF PRESIDENT PEREZ WHO HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF ILLICIT ENRICHMENT). HOWEVER, ZACARIAS PLEDGED TO SUSPEND ANY FURTHER ATTACKS ("ILLUSTRATIVE PUNISHMENTS") FOR A PERIOD OF THIRTY DAYS TO GIVE THE COURTS TIME TO TAKE UP THESE FOUR CASES. AT THE END OF THIS PERIOD, THE FBL LEADER DECLARED THE GROUP WOULD AGAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMPLOY FORCE.

4. IN OTHER COMMENTS TO "EL NACIONAL," ZACARIAS SAID THE FOLLOWING:

-- DENIED THAT THE FBL HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE SHOOTING OF JEAN HOPE PHELPS (CARACAS 10401).

-- ASSERTED THAT THE FBL HAD ITS OWN ORGANIZATION AND ACTED AUTONOMOUSLY; THE FBL IS MARXIST AND WAS ESTABLISHED SOME 10 YEARS AGO; IT COMPRISES PROFESSIONALS, STUDENTS, BUSINESSMEN, WORKERS, FEMINISTS, AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

-- THE FBL SHARED SOME OF THE IDEALS OF THE MBR-200 (THE GROUP OF OFFICERS HEADED BY HUGO CHAVEZ WHICH LED THE FEBRUARY 4 REBELLION) BUT DENIED ANY DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS.

-- DENIED ANY TIE TO THE POLITICAL PARTY CAUSA R WHILE EXPRESSING SOME SYMPATHY FOR THE PARTY'S VIEWS.

-- EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR A CIVIL-MILITARY INSURRECTION AND REJECTED ELECTIONS AS A "JOKE" AND A "FARCE."

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-- ADDED THAT OTHER NAMES ON THE FBL HIT LIST INCLUDE TWO FORMER PRESIDENTS OF THE VENEZUELAN INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SECURITY (EUCLIDES MORENO AND TIRSO RAMOS)

5. QUESTIONED BY REPORTERS ON OCTOBER 4 ABOUT THE "EL NACIONAL" INTERVIEW WITH COMANDANTE ZACARIAS, PRESIDENT
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CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ ASSERTED THAT THE INTERVIEW AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THAT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS EXISTS IN VENEZUELA. HE WENT ON, HOWEVER, TO CRITICIZE THE PRESS FOR PUBLISHING ARTICLES WHICH INCITED HATE AND VIOLENCE AND WHICH ANNOUNCED CRIMES WHICH WERE BEING CONTEMPLATED. (CAP ACCURATELY PREDICTED THAT THE PRESS WOULD ACCUSE HIM OF MAKING THREATS, WHEN HE WAS TRYING TO DEFEND OTHERS SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE THREATENED.)

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